

REMARKS**Response to Election/Restriction Requirement**

The Office Action issued on April 4, 2005 has set forth an election/restriction requirement directed to the following two Groups: Group I (corresponding to claims 1-3) and Group II (corresponding to claims 4-5).

Applicant responds by provisionally electing Group I (claims 1-3) for prosecution. This election is made with traverse.

Applicant's traversal is based on the fact that claims 4-5 (i.e., all the claims of Group II) depend directly or indirectly from claim 1 of Group I. Because dependent claims include all of the claim elements of the base claim, claims 4 and 5 are directed to a "method of manufacturing a seal" for "an optical unit constituting an automobile signaling or illuminating light..." (see also claim 1). Thus, Examiner's statement that "the method could be used to make objects other than a seal, such as a lid or toy" is not well taken.

Moreover, Applicant respectfully asserts that in performing the search for the seal recited in the claims of Group I, the Examiner will necessarily find corresponding manufacturing methods. Thus, Applicant respectfully suggests that the search and examination of the entire application can be made without serious burden to the Examiner. The MPEP states "If the search and examination of an entire application can be made **without serious burden**, the examiner must examine it on the merits, even though it includes claims to independent or distinct inventions." See MPEP §803 (emphasis added).

For at least these reasons, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and withdrawal of the election/restriction requirement.

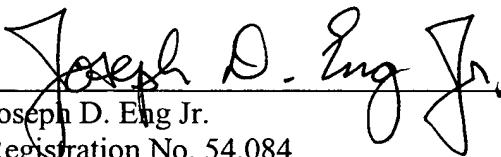
CONCLUSION

In the event that the Examiner feels that a telephone interview would expedite prosecution, the Examiner is cordially invited to contact the undersigned at the number below.

Respectfully submitted,
MORGAN & FINNEGAN, L.L.P.

Dated: April 28, 2004

By:



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